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Board of Regents approves plans for new Health Sciences building

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today's action by the Board of Regents approving plans for a new Health Sciences building at Montana State University will launch the school on one of the most ambitious building years in its history, according to President H.K. Newburn. Before the end of 1960, if plans mature, the University expects to have three new laboratory and classroom buildings under way, a construction package estimated at \$2,600,000. The program will go far toward relieving the pressing demand for laboratory and classroom space at MSU, Dr. Newburn said.

Following board action, the University is proceeding toward financing the Health Sciences unit. Grants of \$233,000 will be augmented by the proceeds of a bond issue totaling approximately \$1,200,000, Dr. Newburn said. Bonds will be offered for sale about the same time that contracts are let, depending on building conditions. The present timetable calls for bid advertising shortly after the first of the year and the bids will be taken sometime during the first quarter. As previously announced, the bonds will be amortized out of building fees, and will not be a direct charge against the Montana taxpayer.

Committee work directed toward planning for the new building was begun in 1956. By 1958, decision had been reached as to the purposes which the structure would serve, and a committee on the Health Sciences building was appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. P.L. Wright, head of the Zoology Department. Serving with him were Dr. John Craighead, leader of the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit; Dr. R.A. Diettert, chairman of the Botany Department; F.W. Krieger, superintendent of buildings and grounds; Dr. E.C. Lory, Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. John Munoz, director of the Stella

(more)

Duncan Memorial Fund Research, and T.G. Swearingen, director of planning and construction. Swearingen has served as liaison between the group and Witwer and Price, Missoula architects, in translating space needs into structural plans.

According to Swearingen, the most economical structural design was sought without at the same time producing disharmony with other campus structures. He noted that while many schools are tending toward factory-type designs for their laboratory structures, the new MSU laboratory building will be made as attractive as possible. The tapestry brick exterior will be similar to several other buildings on the campus, and in architectural style will most nearly resemble the Liberal Arts building.

With reference to the two other buildings that MSU hopes to erect starting next year, Dr. Newburn reported that work is going forward on utilization surveys to determine the functional needs of the projected Law School building and the addition to the Liberal Arts building. He said that this preliminary work for the Law School is in an advanced stage and it is likely that this building will be the next to start following Health Sciences, if plans mature. Preliminary space needs for the Liberal Arts addition are expected to be completed shortly after the first of the year. The extension is planned in an effort to consolidate all the social sciences and humanities in one building and to close out the temporary classroom buildings now occupied by some of the branches.

According to Dr. Newburn, much of the laboratory and classroom space is needed right now to handle present student and research requirements. Expected enrollment increases within the next few years will find the new buildings operating at peak capacity within a comparatively short time, he said.